

# Safety Alert OF THE MONTH

PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS IN BC'S FOREST INDUSTRY

February 2019

## Landslide Risks for Forestry Operations

In November 2015, on a mountainside cutblock access road, a driver was moving a loaded logging truck away from the loading point to put on binders. A landslide came down the slope, sweeping away the truck and trailer down the mountainside. The truck driver sustained fatal injuries.

**Incident Details:** Heavy precipitation and snowmelt on an old, unmaintained logging road 600 metres above the work zone initiated a landslide. The landslide swept down the mountainside through an active cutblock, carrying a loaded logging truck and its driver downslope approximately 300 metres, burying the truck in debris.

### Learnings & Suggestions

- Logging plans for a cutblock should include an assessment of potential upslope hazards, such as abandoned or non-deactivated roads, and how they might impact slope stability during prolonged rain or snowfall.
- If upslope roads are not deactivated or maintained and are creating a landslide risk, contact relevant authorities to develop a mitigation plan.
- Be certain that all workers, supervisors and managers understand the implications of the increased risk of landslide caused by the amount of soil saturation from not just rainfall, but also melting snow. Snowmelt should be considered as additional precipitation, beyond any precipitation already measured.
- Make sure field staff are trained in rainfall monitoring/shutdown procedures which include collecting rain and snow accumulation data, interpretation of the data and making informed decisions to shut down or keep working.
- New road construction operations on moderate to steep slopes can also create a risk of causing landslides. Site indicators to be aware of include wet organic soils particularly when over smooth bedrock and pistol butt or jack-strawed trees.



Jack-strawed trees



# Safety Alert OF THE MONTH

PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS IN BC'S FOREST INDUSTRY

## Resources

- 1) WorkSafeBC's Incident Investigation Report Summary for this incident  
<http://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/incident-investigation-report-summaries/logging-truck-swept-off-road-by-landslide?lang=en>
- 2) Road Construction Initiated Slides Awareness Videos and Training  
<https://www.bcforestsafe.org/CISWG>



Example of landslide caused during road construction

